

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
July 20, 2007

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, July 17, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

1. Members present. Mary Margaret Lloyd, Nanette K. Raduenz, Frederick A. Schurger, Nicholas L. South, and Michael P. Scopelitis, Chair were present.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Wendy Yerkes, Deputy Director, Child Support Bureau, Department of Child Services; Amber Njau, Business Analyst, Deloitte Consulting, for Child Support Bureau; and Bob Monday, Indiana State Coordinator, Children's Rights Council, was also present.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes of the May 17-18, 2007 meeting were approved.
4. Domestic Relations Benchbook draft.
 - a. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed a draft of the Domestic Relations Benchbook prepared by Judge Scopelitis in advance of the meeting. Members thanked him for his hard work as editor.
 - b. Judge Scopelitis explained various edits he completed. He moved modification in general to the end of each chapter, rather than in one chapter. He moved Chapter 13 to 10, and renamed Chapter 10 Parenting Time, Grandparent and Third Party Visitation. He reviewed all family law cases for the past three (3) years, and included any important appellate decisions if not already there. He revised the outline format to simplify it and have it be consistent throughout each chapter of the benchbook.
 - c. The committee members reviewed the edited benchbook chapters. They approved the Domestic Relations Benchbook by consensus. They recommended Senior Judges get a copy of the benchbook when it is distributed to all other judicial officers.
5. Child Support Guidelines.
 - a. Committee members discussed a review of Indiana's Child Support Guidelines. They mentioned the issues of the noncustodial parent with enough parenting time receiving child support from the custodial parent (**Grant v. Hagar**), support with Social Security Benefits (**Brown** and **Dedek** cases), and Title II Social Security Benefits vs. Title 16 Disability benefits.
 - b. Wendy Yerkes, Deputy Director, Child Support Bureau, indicated (1) the Indiana Prosecutor's Alliance, through its representative Michael McAlexander would like to present their perspective on Title IV-D cases; (2) the complexity of the parenting time credit, including getting verifiable information and the complexity of the parenting time calculation and explaining it to IV-D clients, (3) medical support issues, including what insurers are telling insureds about who must cover children in cases of dissolution, and (4) how Indiana's child support orders appear higher than Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Wisconsin. She agreed to bring further information to the committee on these issues.
 - c. Committee members agreed to invite a representative from the ISBA, Family Law Section to the next meeting.

6. Next meeting dates. Members of the committee agreed to meet again on Friday, August 17, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The following meeting dates were proposed: Friday, October 19, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center; Thurs. and Friday, November 15-16, 2007, the Domestic Relations Workshop at the Marriott North - Indianapolis; and Friday, January 18, 2008, February 15, 2008, March 21, 2008, May 16, 2008, and July 18, 2008 all from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law